

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127609
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00 AID-05
L-03 /042 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
EA/RA - MR. CLEVELAND
EA/TIMBS - MR. SULLIVAN
EA/DAS - MR. OAKLEY (SUBSTANCE)
-----044858 191721Z /43

O R 191658Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: GOI POLICY TOWARDS INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES

REF: JAKARTA 6425

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT AUSTRALIA AND U.S. AUTHORITIES
SHOULD COORDINATE ACTIONS REGARDING DEMARCHES ON NEW
HARDENING OF INDONESIAN POLICY TOWARDS BOAT REFUGEES. WE
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, FORMAL U.S.
DEMARCHE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
NEW PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. WE HOPE
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THIS WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.

2. IN THE INTERIM, EMBASSY SHOULD EXPRESS OUR CONCERN THAT
REFUGEES ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THESE ADDITIONAL HAZARDS
AFTER THE DANGER AND DIFFICULTIES WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY
UNDERGONE. EMBASSY COULD STRESS THAT WHILE THE RATE OF
ESCAPE BY BOAT HAS STEADILY RISEN, THE U.S., AUSTRALIANS,

FRENCH AND OTHERS, HAVE, TO DATE, CONTINUED TO DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE PROBLEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNHCR. THUS, WE HOPE THE GOI WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT SUCH BOAT REFUGEES TEMPORARILY WHILE AWAITING THEIR ONWARD RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. FAILURE TO DO SO

WOULD BE DOUBLY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECT IT COULD HAVE ON AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC OPINION, ENDANGERING THE GENEROUS NEW AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM OF ACCEPTANCE OF THESE REFUGEES.

3. DAS OAKLEY HAS ALREADY RAISED ISSUE ON TWO OCCASIONS WITH INDONESIAN EMBASSY HERE, MOST RECENTLY ON MAY 17.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTIFY EMBASSY AS SOON AS NEW PAROLE AUTHORITY IS ANNOUNCED AND WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AT THAT TIME.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCLOWMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780211-0780
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780539/aaaabguc.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 907c179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JAKARTA 6425
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2632877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI POLICY TOWARDS INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, ID, MY
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/907c179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014